

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for ranking creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject including the steps of:

selecting from the set of documents, ~~selecting~~ documents that refer to the subject, to create a subject related subset of documents;

selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;

analyzing the linguistic structure of the extracts by locating action-centered statements therein and by isolating verbs in ~~the extracts~~ said statements to create a set of verbs for classification;

classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy; and

using the analysis to rank the creators.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 1 including the further step of:~~

A method for ranking creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject including the steps of:

selecting from the set of documents, documents that refer to the subject, to create a subject related subset of documents;

selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;

analyzing the linguistic structure of the extracts by locating action-centered statements therein and by isolating verbs in said statements to create a set of verbs for classification;

classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy; and

using the analysis to rank the creators; and wherein

~~creating~~ the predetermined hierarchy is created by mapping isolated verbs to an illocutionary verb in a predefined set of illocutionary verbs and;

~~classifying~~ the mapped isolated verbs are classified according to the Speech Act Theory category of the corresponding illocutionary verb.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 2 including the further [[step]] steps of:

filtering isolated verbs not having a predefined illocutionary verb and thus not successfully mapped to the set of illocutionary verbs and;

checking for synonyms of the unmapped isolated verbs, that have a predefined illocutionary verb and;

classifying the unmapped isolated verbs according to the Speech Act Theory of the corresponding illocutionary verb of it synonym.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method for ranking creators of a set of documents according to claim 1, including the step of:

weighting extracts to favor those written in the first person over those written in the third person.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A method for ranking creators according to claim 1, wherein the set of documents is e-mail communications.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A computer programmed to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise in a subject according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A computer to rank creators of a set of documents in order of their expertise including means for:

selecting documents from the set of documents that refer to the subject to create a subject related subset of documents;

selecting extracts from the subset of documents that refer to the subject;

analyzing the linguistic structure of the extracts by locating action-centered statements therein, and by isolating verbs in ~~the extracts~~ said statements to create a set of verbs for classification, and classifying each isolated verb in the set of verbs according to a predetermined hierarchy and using the analysis to rank the creators.